

Message Text

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51

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SCA-01 PPTE-00 SY-04 SSO-00

FBIE-00 L-03 H-03 INR-11 CIAE-00 DEAE-00 JUSE-00

INRE-00 /030 W

----- 021191

O P 221426Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 202 IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS CHIANG MAI 329

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, TH

SUBJECT: DEATH OF FOREIGNER, POSSIBLY AMERICAN CITIZEN

REF: (A) CHIANG MAI 325

(B) CHIANG MAI 328

1. SUMMARY: CONSULATE BELIEVES FOREIGNER MURDERED AUG 17
TO BE BOB CLARK OF GRAFTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE AND REQUESTS DEPT.
CHECK PASSPORT FILES FOR NOTIFICATION NEXT OF KIN.

2. CONSULATE INVESTIGATIONS OF AUG 21 IN CHIANG DAO LED
TO MEETING WITH SCHOOLTEACHER FROM BAN JONG VILLAGE WHO SAID
FOREIGNER HAD STOPPED AT HIS SCHOOL DURING EARLY MORNING
AUG 16 AND SIGNED VISITOR'S BOOK. SCHOOLTEACHER AGREED TO
COME TO CHIANG MAI AUG 22 WHERE HE VIEWED BODY AND SAID IT
APPEARED TO BE SAME MAN. CONSULAR OFFICER NOTICED THAT BODY
HAD TWO STRINGS (CORDS WHICH ARE LOCAL THAI CUSTOM TO WEAR) AROUND
WRISTS, NOT OBSERVED WHEN BODY FIRST BROUGHT IN FROM JUNGLE BUT MADE
EVIDENT BY SWELLING OF ARMS. SCHOOLTEACHER SAID FOREIGNER HAD BEEN
WEARING STRINGS, BUT THEN APPEARED FRIGHTENED AND SAID HE
DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE PEOPLE KNOW FOREIGNER HAD BEEN TO HIS SCHOOL
BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS FROM MURDERERS. HE DID AGREE,
HOWEVER, THAT CHIANG DAO POLICE CHIEF COULD GO LOOK AT VISITOR'S
BOOK.

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3. BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR BAN JONG WITH CHIANG DAO POLICE CHIEF, CONSULATE RECEIVED TRANSLATED RADIO MESSAGE REPORT FROM BORDER PATROL POLICE (BPP) THAT ONE "BOK KRAT" HAD ENROUTE TO MUANG HAENG ON AUG 15 MET A MR. PRICHA WHO HAD GIVEN HIM RIDE ON HIS MOTORCYCLE FROM MUANG HAENG TO MUANG POK WHERE HE SPENT NIGHT AT MR. PRICHA'S HOME. (NOTE: THAI OFTEN CONFUSE LETTER R WITH L WHICH MAY ACCOUNT FOR NAME IN BPP REPORT.)

4. VICE CONSUL STRATHEARN AND CHIANG DAO PC PROCEEDED TO MUANG POK TO INTERVIEW MR. PRICHA WHO CONFIRMED BPP REPORT AND SAID HE HAD ON AUG 16 TAKEN "BOB CLARK" (HE WAS ABLE TO WRITE "BOB" IN ENGLISH BUT NOT CLARK) TO VISIT SHAN VILLAGE AND THEN RETURNED HIM TO MUANG HAENG. WHEN ASKED TO DESCRIBE "BOB" IN DETAIL, PRICHA MENTIONED BUDDHIST IMAGE AROUND NECK, STRINGS AROUND WRISTS AND RED, WHITE AND BLUE PLASTIC RING. PRICHA SAID MAN HAD SHOWN HIM HIS CAMERA, SAID IT WAS VERY EXPENSIVE AND PRICHA NOTED FILM WAS ROLLED FROM THE BACK RATHER THAN TOP. (ROLLIFLEX?) PRICHA SAID WHEN HE LEFT MAN IN MUANG HAENG, MAN HAD OFFERED HIM MONEY BUT HAD ONLY 26 BAHT (\$1.25) SO PRICHA DID NOT ACCEPT. MAN INSTEAD GAVE HIM SMALL FERTILITY SYMBOL (WHICH PRICHA WAS WEARING). WHEN SHOWN PICTURES TAKEN OF BODY AS FOUND IN JUNGLE. PRICHA SAID HE WAS CERTAIN IT SAME MAN. ONLY DISCREPANCY IN PRICHA'S DESCRIPTION OF BODY WAS HAIR COLOR WHICH HE SAID WAS "LIGHT". PRICHA ALSO SAID MAN HAD TOLD HIM HE HAD COME THAILAND AFTER SPENDING TWO MONTHS IN LAOS AND SHOWED HIM PASSPORT (WHICH NOT REPEAT NOT FOUND ON BODY).

5. INVESTIGATORS THEN WENT TO BAN JONG SCHOOLHOUSE (ABOUT 3 KILOMETERS FROM MUANG POK) AND OBTAINED VISITOR'S BOOK IN WHICH WAS WRITTEN, "AUG 16, 1974. THE CUP OF HOT WATER WAS A DELIGHTFUL IDEA AND I THANK YOU FOR YOUR CORDIAL KINDNESS. 'ONLY THE MOUNTAINTOPS NEVER MEET.' MAYBE WE SHALL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN. SINCERELY, BOB CLARK GRAFTON 03240 NEW HAMPSHIRE USA." (XEROX COPY OF WRITING BEING POUCHES SCS.) PRICHA WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT SAY THAT HE HAD TAKEN HIS FOREIGN VISITOR TO THE SCHOOLHOUSE.

6. ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE VETERINARIAN MENTIONED REF A HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL BECAUSE HIS FATHER-IN-LAW HAS DIED AND HE ATTENDING FUNERAL IN NORTHEAST THAILAND WHERE HE IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN TEN DAYS.

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7. CONSULATE BELIEVES MURDERED MAN TO BE BOB CLARK. REQUEST DEPT CHECK PASSPORT FILES FOR CONFIRMATION AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP (NOTE REF B FOR DESCRIPTION), NOTIFICATION NEXT OF KIN AND DESIRE RE DISPOSITION OF REMAINS. BURIAL CHIANG MAI FOREIGNERS CEMETARY 75, CREMATION 25, SHIPMENT SAN FRANCISCO CREMATED AIR 35, EMBALMED AIR FROM BANGKOK 66/KILO PLUS 50 FOR PREPARATION OF REMAINS. (NOTE: REMAINS WOULD HAVE BE SENT SURFACE CHIANG MAI TO BANGKOK AND

COST ESTIMATED AT 50.) THAI AUTHORITIES ARE ANXIOUS TO DISPOSE OF
BADLY DECOMPOSED REMAINS, AND SUGGEST DEPT MAY WISH ADVISE
CREMATION.
IRICK

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